

Little Ducklings Preschool

Park Lodge, Vibrok shanakiel Ilkeston Road, Heanor, DE75 7DR



Inspection date

7 March 2017

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The areas identified for children's future learning are not always well targeted or promoted by all staff during daily activities. This means that children are not fully challenged in their learning and development.
- Staff receive regular support, coaching and supervision. As a result, teaching is improving. However, some staff require further support, coaching and training to ensure the quality of teaching and children's learning is consistently good.

It has the following strengths

- Staff help children make lots of choices and follow their own interests in their play and learning. Children enjoy exploring the stimulating indoor and outdoor play areas and the wide range of good quality play resources.
- Partnerships with parents and other agencies are strong. Everyone works together to identify children's individual care and learning needs. Parents are kept well informed of the progress children are making.
- Children are prepared well for the move from home into the pre-school. They settle well and show that they feel safe and secure. Children are developing close relationships with adults and other children.
- Managers and staff demonstrate a clear commitment to making continual improvements in the quality of teaching and in the children's care and learning experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

Due Date

- make sure the next steps planned for children's future learning are well targeted and understood and promoted by all staff. 31/03/2017

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- improve the support, coaching and training provided for staff to make sure the quality of teaching and children's learning is consistently good.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors. She assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the pre-school managers. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection. She also took account of their written views provided by the manager.

Inspector

Dianne Adams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Managers are reflective. They accurately identify the strengths and most areas that need to be improved within the pre-school. However, they do not make sure that there is consistently good quality teaching and learning across all areas of the pre-school. Safeguarding is effective. Staff know what action to take to keep children safe and to protect them from harm. Recruitment and vetting is thorough and helps to make sure adults are suitable to work with children. Staff assess and manage the risks to children's safety and well-being. Children are kept safe as they play. The views of parents and children are sought as part of the pre-school's self-evaluation. Parents state that children benefit from exploring the community in which they live. They comment on the respect that staff show for children's lifestyles and their families' religious beliefs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Teaching is variable. Staff quickly identify children's starting points in partnership with their parents. They observe, assess and track what children know and can do. However, some staff are not always focused well enough on the areas in which children are making less progress. As a result, staff do not always plan activities that fully challenge children in their learning, although, staff are skilful at helping children use their imaginations and to be creative. Children really enjoy dressing up and acting out events observed at home. Some staff become engaged in children's play and use questions to help children to think. Children develop their physical skills as they investigate using sand, compost and paint. They show interest in electronic laptops and items, such as kitchen whisks and telephones, exploring how they work.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff do not fully motivate or inspire children to achieve consistently good levels of learning. That said, staff are kind and caring. They are good role models for children who are learning to share, take turns and to cooperate with others. Children have fun and enjoy their time in this relaxed and friendly pre-school. They are curious in the world around them and safely move resources from one play area to another. Children develop good social skills. They play with children of different ages and confidently engage with visitors to the pre-school. Children's self-esteem is built upon as a result of the praise they receive for their efforts and achievements.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Outcomes for children vary. The weaknesses in teaching means that children are not consistently challenged to extend their learning. This does not prepare children well enough for school, when the time comes. That said, children extend their literacy skills while reading books and when identifying their names at registration time. They use tools, such as brushes and pencils to develop their early writing skills. Some children follow instructions and use language to interact with others. Their independence skills are developing as they select toys to play with and put coats and shoes on to go outdoors.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY491367
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	1030535
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Little Ducklings Pre School Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP907029
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07903896680

Little Ducklings Preschool was registered in 2015. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff, including the managers. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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